

CALENDAR OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS

2023-2024 5784

DESCRIPTION OF OBSERVANCE

There are three major branches within Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform. All three consider the holy days to be special religious events. Each has its own practice of observance regarding work and school on holy days. As a result, the number of days which a holy day may be observed varies from person to person.

The Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) begins each week before sunset on Friday and ends after sunset on Saturday.

All Jewish holidays begin before sunset of the previous evening. It is important that schools avoid conflicts on the eve and the day of the holiday.

STUDENTS AND STAFF WILL PROBABLY BE ABSENT FOR THESE HOLY DAYS, AND SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO PREPARE ASSIGNMENTS OR FOR EXAMS.

ROSH HASHANAH – Jewish New Year

*Sunset Friday evening – September 15, 2023
through sunset Sunday – September 17, 2023*

Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Jewish year. It is the first of the High Holy Days and marks the start of the ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.

YOM KIPPUR – Day of Atonement

*Sunset Sunday evening – September 24, 2023
through Monday evening – September 25, 2023*

This is the most holy day in the Jewish year. It is devoted to fasting and prayer, as people ask G-d and each other for forgiveness.

PASSOVER (Seders – first two evenings) – Festival of Freedom

*Sunset Monday evening, April 22 (First Seder) and sunset Wednesday evening, April 24, 2024 (Second Seder).
(First two days: sunset April 22 through sunset April 24. Full Passover holiday sunset April 22 through sunset April 30, 2024).*

The Seder is a family ritual service that occurs on the first two evenings of Passover. Students should not be expected to prepare assignments or for exams on these nights. The first two and last two days of Passover are holy days, when students and staff may be absent. Passover celebrates the liberation of the Jews from Egyptian bondage. During this eight-day holiday, many Jews refrain from eating bread products and eat matzah (unleavened bread) instead.

STUDENTS AND STAFF MAY BE ABSENT FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

SUKKOT – First two days

*Sunset Friday evening – September 29, 2023
through sunset Tuesday – October 1, 2023*

Sukkot is the Jewish festival of thanksgiving and harvest.

SHEMINI ATZERET

*Sunset Friday evening – October 6, 2023
through sunset Saturday – October 7, 2023*

Shemini Atzeret is the eighth day of Sukkot, on which special memorial prayers are said.

SIMCHAT TORAH

*Sunset Saturday evening – October 7, 2023
through sunset Sunday – October 8, 2023*

Simchat Torah celebrates the conclusion of the yearly cycle of reading the Five Books of Moses and its beginning anew, thus demonstrating that study is a never-ending process.

PASSOVER – Last two days

*Sunset Sunday evening – April 28, 2024
through sunset Tuesday – April 30, 2024*

(full Passover holiday sunset April 22-April 30, 2024- see above)

The last two days of Passover conclude the celebration of Passover.

SHAVUOT

*Sunset Tuesday evening – June 11, 2024
through sunset Thursday – June 13, 2024*

Shavuot celebrates the covenant established at Mount Sinai between G-d and Israel, and the revelation of the Ten Commandments.

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FESTIVALS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE MISSING WORK OR SCHOOL:

HANUKKAH - The eight-day Festival of Lights

Sunset Thursday evening - December 7, 2023 through sunset Thursday - December 14, 2023

Hanukkah celebrates the triumph of religious liberty and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Maccabees in 165 BCE.

PURIM - Feast of Lots

Sunset Saturday evening - March 23, 2024 through sunset Sunday - March 24, 2024

A joyous festival commemorating the time when the Jews of ancient Persia were saved from extermination through the intervention of Queen Esther.

TWO-YEAR CALENDAR OF MAJOR JEWISH HOLIDAYS

2024-2025 5785

2025-2026 5786

ROSH HASHANAH	Oct. 2-4, 2024 (sunset Wed.-sunset Fri.)	Sept. 22-24, 2025 (sunset Mon.-sunset Wed.)
YOM KIPPUR	Oct. 11-12, 2024 (sunset Fri.-Sat. evening)	Oct. 1-2, 2025 (sunset Wed.-sunset Thurs.)
Sukkot (First 2 days)	Oct. 16-18, 2024 (sunset Wed.-sunset Fri.)	Oct. 6-Oct. 8, 2025 (sunset Mon.-sunset Wed.)
Shemini Atzeret	Oct. 23-24, 2024 (sunset Wed.-sunset Thurs.)	Oct. 13-14, 2025 (sunset Mon.-sunset Tues.)
Simchat Torah	Oct. 24-25, 2024 (sunset Thurs.-sunset Fri.)	Oct. 14-15, 2025 (sunset Tues.-sunset Wed.)
Hanukkah	Dec. 25, 2024-Jan. 1, 2025 (Sunset Wed.-sunset Wed.)	Dec. 14-21, 2025 (sunset Sun.-sunset Sun.)
Purim	March 13-14, 2025 (sunset Thurs.-sunset Fri.)	March 2-4, 2026 (sunset Mon.-sunset Wed.)
PASSOVER (1st 2 days)	April 12-14, 2025 (sunset Sat.-sunset Mon.)	April 1-3, 2026 (sunset Wed.-sunset Fri.)
Passover (Last 2 days)	April 18-20, 2025 (sunset Fri.-sunset Sun.)	April 7-9, 2026 (sunset Tues.-sunset Thurs.)
Shavuot	June 1-3, 2025 (sunset Sun.-sunset Tues.)	May 21-23, 2026 (sunset Thurs.-sunset Sat.)

WE WANT TO HELP

We provide this information to familiarize area educators with the major holidays of the Jewish faith. We hope it will be valuable to you in understanding Jewish holiday observances and their effect on student and staff absences and classroom planning.

PLEASE CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE JEWISH CALENDAR OR RELATED SUBJECTS.

JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS BUREAU | AJC

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